

REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-16, the status of which is as follows:

- (a) Claims 2-10 and 12-15 are as originally filed.
- (b) Claims 1 and 11 have been currently amended.
- (c) Claim 16 is new.

No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,740,808 to Panescu et al. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panescu in view of US Patent 4,561,427 to Takada. Claims 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panescu in view of US Patent 6,296,608 to Daniels et al. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panescu in view of US Patent 5,353,807 to DeMarco. Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panescu in view of US Patent 4,040,413 to Ohshiro.

The Applicant has amended claims 1 and 11 to additionally recite an inflatable device, which is adapted to pull the guidewire through the colon. This amendment is supported in the specification as filed: "Alternatively, guidewire 16 may be pulled through the colon, such as by a self-propelled mechanical device (or other devices, such as but not limited to, inflatable devices, electrical devices and the like)" (p. 4, second paragraph). Panescu neither teaches nor suggests the use of such an inflatable device for advancing the guidewire through a body lumen. The Applicant thus suggests that claims 1 and 11, as amended, are in a condition for allowance.

In view of the patentability of independent claims 1 and 11, the Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-10 and 12-15 are also allowable, because they depend from independent claim 1 or 11.

Claim 16 is new, and is supported in the specification by at least the following:

Gastrointestinal apparatus 10 may comprise a gastrointestinal tool 12 formed with a bore 14 that slides over a guidewire 16. The guidewire 16 passes through bore 14. . . .

The following description follows for introducing guidewire 16 into the gastrointestinal tract, particularly the colon. . . .

As seen in FIG. 1, guidewire 16 may be introduced through the rectum 18, past the sigmoid colon 20 and descending colon 22, where it may bend past the splenic flexure 24, pass through the transverse colon 26, bend past the hepatic flexure 28, pass into the ascending colon 30 and reach the cecum 32 by any method. For example, guidewire 16 may be pushed through the colon by hand as in typical colonoscopic procedures. Alternatively, guidewire 16 may be pulled through the colon, such as by a self-propelled mechanical device (or other devices, such as but not limited to, inflatable devices, electrical devices and the like). Gastrointestinal tool 12 may then be introduced into the colon by sliding over guidewire 16. . . .
(p. 3, last paragraph – p. 4, second paragraph).

The Applicant submits that claim 16 is allowable for the same reasons discussed hereinabove with respect to claim 1.

The Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are now in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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